



LIGHT BRIGADING/FLICKR

# #BLACK LIVES MATTER

By ALEJANDRA PAULINO, age 13



Protesters in Madison, WI, in March 2015. Since initial demonstrations in August 2014, at least 837 Black Lives Matter protests have taken place around the country.

On November 22, 2014, 12-year-old Tamir Rice was playing with a toy gun in a Cleveland, OH, park when a man saw him and called 911 to report him, thinking the gun was real. When police officers arrived, one of them shot Tamir within two seconds.

Unfortunately, Tamir's death was not that unusual. According to data analyzed by *Mother Jones*, Black people are more than four times as likely to be killed by law enforcement than white people.

In April 2015, 25-year-old Freddie Gray of Baltimore, MD, died after suffering severe injuries to his spine while in police custody. In 2014, several other killings of unarmed Black and Latino youth made headlines, including Michael Brown, a teenager shot by a police officer in Ferguson, MO, last summer.

These deaths sparked Black Lives Matter, a grassroots social justice movement that protests police violence against unarmed Black and Latino people.

The name of the movement started after the killer of unarmed Black Florida teen Trayvon Martin was found not guilty in July 2013. In response, activists Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi created the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter. It was used periodically on social media, but picked up steam when Michael Brown was killed in August 2014. Cullors used the hashtag to spread the word about a protest in Ferguson.

When a grand jury decided on November 24, 2014, that the officer who killed Brown would not be tried for murder, protests erupted in more than 170 cities and #BlackLivesMatter was used more than 150,000 times on Twitter.

Since initial demonstrations in August 2014, at least 837 Black Lives

Matter protests have taken place around the country, according to a record kept by Elephrame.com.

One tactic protesters have used is called a die-in, when large groups of protesters lay on the ground for four and a half minutes, to represent the four and a half hours that Michael Brown's body lay in the street after he was shot. By blocking roads or busy walking areas, die-ins attract attention to the cause by disrupting regular activities in crowded places. Protesters staged die-ins at Grand Central Station, George Washington University, in public schools, on sidewalks and in malls around the country.

One of the largest protests was the Millions March on December 13, 2014, which around 100,000 people attended in New York City, Washington D.C., Boston, Chicago and Oakland, CA.

In an interview with *IndyKids*, Synead Nichols, one of the main organizers of the Millions March NYC, stressed the importance of youth in the movement. She encourages young people to ask questions and challenge unjust systems, saying, "Kids should really invest in learning about the way our country actually works. We're not taught a lot of things in school that pertains to our advancement in the United States or even our own [Black] history."

The movement continues to expand to include the challenges that specific Black and Latino communities face. Nichols said that all Black lives matter, including Black women and members of the LGBTQ community. "There is the oppression of Black people, but there are other systems of oppression which many people suffer under: patriarchy, gender and sexuality roles, economic standing, etc.," said Nichols.

"We want to make sure there is the broadest participation possible in this new [chapter] of a Black freedom movement," Garza told *USA Today*. "We need to bring all of those experiences to the table in order to achieve the solutions we desire."

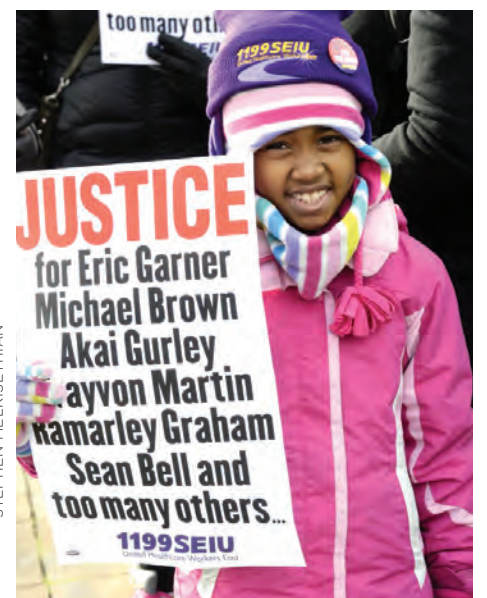
**Patriarchy:** a societal structure in which men hold power over women

Young people across the country have taken an active role in the Black Lives Matter movement.



In solidarity with Black Lives Matter, Central High School students in Champaign, IL, hold a die-in outside of their school in December 2014.

JEFFREY PUTNEY/FLICKR



STEPHEN MELKISETHIAN





JORGE IGNACIO MUSTAR

## Meet... Ian from Argentina

**Name:** Ian Gerhards

**Age:** 8

**Lives In:** San Carlos de Bariloche, Patagonia in southern Argentina

**Languages Spoken:** Spanish

**Favorite Food:** Milanesa (breaded and fried meat) with mashed potatoes

**Favorite Animal:** Condor

**Pets:** Two dogs, two cats, twelve hens and a rooster

**Favorite Subject in School:** Gym

**Favorite Activities:** Playing soccer and swimming

**Favorite Flower:** Tulips

**What He Wants to Be When He Grows Up:** A chef



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Argentina at a Glance

**Official Country Name:**  
The Argentine Republic

**Capital:** Buenos Aires

**Location:** Southern part of South America, east of Chile and south of Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay

**Geography:** Argentina is divided into seven geographical regions: high mountains, lowlands, tropical plains, grasslands and Antarctic. Because of the huge variety of ecosystems, Argentina is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world.

**Population:** 42,352,023. The Argentine population has doubled since 1960.

**Religions:** 77% Catholic, 11% no religion, 10% Protestant, 1% Jewish, 1% other

**Language:** Spanish

By MATTHEW DOTY, age 12



82

The percentage of transgender youth who reported feeling unsafe at school in a 2011 report by the National Center for Transgender Equality.  
Source: National Center for Transgender Equality

# nation&world

## Children Of War: How war is affecting children in Syria



DEID - UK DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, 70 percent of child refugees from Syria in Lebanon alone do not attend school.

By ANAND JAUREGUILORDA, age 10



Imagine waking up to the sound of an explosion outside. You look out the window and see your neighbor's house smoldering from the impact of a bomb. Millions of children in Syria have experienced this since civil war broke out in the country in 2011. That year, teenagers

Twelve-year-old Camiran al-Ali, who grew up in Syria, was forced to flee with his family to Lebanon in October 2013. He told *The Guardian*, "I was scared of the bombs in Syria. I could hear them from the house and they fell nearby."

More than 3.9 million refugees from Syria have crossed the borders into countries including Lebanon,

were tortured for painting revolutionary slogans on a school wall. The protests that followed escalated into a civil war that continues today. In Syria, more than 10,000 children have lost their lives to the war.

Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt, looking for safety. More than half of these **refugees** are children.

Many child refugees from Syria are forced to work to help support their families. In Lebanon, 80 percent of working child refugees are laboring in the fields. The work is hard and is bad for children's backs. Farmers know they can pay children less than they would pay adults. One Syrian refugee in Lebanon told *Al Jazeera*, "There are children who would work the whole day for \$3.50 — just to buy bread."

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, 70 percent of child refugees from Syria in Lebanon alone do not attend school. Thirteen-year-old Hassan told *The Guardian*, "If we go to school, who would help our families?"

**Refugees:** people who have had to leave their homes because of war or other violence, environmental disasters or a bad economy that leaves them unable to get jobs or make enough money.

## Summer Camp for Transgender Youth

By JALEN BERKELEY, age 10  
and IndyKids Staff



This summer a lot of kids will be going to a camp where they will split off into separate groups of girls and boys. For **transgender** kids, however, camp can be an uncomfortable and alienating experience. According to a study from the National Center for Transgender Equality, 82 percent of transgender youth say they feel unsafe at school. Forty-four percent have been physically abused. Transgender youth are often shunned socially, sometimes even by their own families. This type of social isolation has profound effects on them and has been linked to higher rates of depression.

Studies have shown, however, that when transgender youth are recognized and supported by family and peers, rates of depression decrease.

In 2009, Nick Teich founded Camp Aranu'tiq, a summer camp for kids who identify as transgender or **gender non-**

**conforming** to be around others like themselves. At Camp Aranu'tiq, kids who identify as transgender are allowed to feel comfortable being who they are.

Aranu'tiq is a word in the language of the native Alaskan Chugachs that means a person who has both the male and female spirit. Aranu'tiq people were respected and looked up to among the Chugachs.

Camp Aranu'tiq is in many ways a lot like other summer camps. Kids play capture the flag, go swimming and canoeing and sit around campfires. "Before camp, I was really shy and not confident," said Damien, a 15-year-old camper who was interviewed by the *Boston Globe* in 2012. "Now, I feel less alone and way more confident. I realized



CAMP ARANU'TIQ

At Camp Aranu'tiq, kids who identify as transgender are allowed to feel comfortable being who they are.

there isn't anything wrong with me and there were people like me."

**Transgender:** describes a person whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. For example, a person designated male at birth who identifies as a woman.

**Gender non-conforming:** describes behaviors and ways of being that are different from those usually associated with a person's gender. For example, a boy who likes to wear dresses.

## indykids!

Phone: (212) 592-0116

E-mail: info@indykids.org

Website: www.indykids.org

Mail: IndyKids

P.O. Box 2281

New York, NY 10163

Published in print five times a year in September, November, January, March and May. Website updated once a month

Issue #50 • Printed May 8, 2015

ISSN: 1943-1031

### WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. **IndyKids** is funded through donations and grants.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO...

The supporters and readers of **IndyKids**: New York Community Trust, Bay and Paul Foundation, Marble Collegiate Church, The Wolf Family, The Wolf Baumer Family, Mr. Kimber, Kit Mills, Claudia Hirsch, PS 128M, 826 NYC, DCTV, Rethinking Schools, Columbia Teachers College, EdLab, New Learning Times, Democracy Now!

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact **IndyKids**! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

### VOLUNTEERS

Design: Mike Newton

**IndyKids Team:** Toi Sin Arvidsson, Sara Behrman, Danielle Benjamin, Mike Burke, Owen Davis, Todd Eaton, GuerrunTZ, Scott Luxor, Kit Mills, Jyothi Natarajan, Malik Nickens, Isis Phillips, Diana Raimondi, Nancy Ryerson, Katie Schlechter, Bonnie Singer, Jonathan Tupas, Amanda Vender

**Mentors:** Lizette Aguilar, Haydee Camacho, Randee Dawn, Victoria Havlicek, Candace Elise Hoes, Patrice Johnson, Scott Luxor, Malik Nickens, Nancy Ryerson, Gabrielle Samboy, Bonnie Singer, Sarah Todd, Jonathan Tupas

**Editors:** Danielle Benjamin, Delores Edwards, Candace Elise Hoes, Carly Mento, Laura Grow-Nyberg, Alison Nash, Jyothi Natarajan, Nancy Ryerson, Katie Schlechter, Neil Shibata

**IndyKids** would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone involved in the organization during the 2014-2015 school year. **This is our 50th IndyKids issue!** We could not have reached this milestone without years of excellent news coverage by our Kid Reporters, caring mentorship and editing expertise from our incredible volunteers, our tireless board and staff, and all of our loyal donors and subscribers.

A big thank you as well to all of our incredibly supportive parents and teachers. We look forward to working with you again in the coming school year!



## Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a) Baltimore ____        | f) Kiribati ____            |
| b) Argentina ____        | g) Oakland, California ____ |
| c) Syria ____            | h) Laos ____                |
| d) Ayotzinapa ____       |                             |
| e) Kivalina, Alaska ____ |                             |



## What Happened to Obama's World Without Nuclear Weapons?

By SADIE PRICE-ELLIOTT, age 13



This summer marks the 70th anniversary of the U.S. dropping the first atomic bombs on Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki, instantly killing 120,000 people. They destroyed the cities while leaving survivors with the long-term effects of radiation. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs states that nuclear weapons are the most dangerous type of weapon on the planet. In a major address given in Vienna, Austria, in 2009, President Barack Obama said that he pictured a “world without nuclear weapons.”

Six years later, advocates argue that little progress has been made toward this goal, and that his priorities have changed. According to the *New York Times*, the president has gone back on his original plan, and instead his administration is investing tens of billions of dollars to update and rebuild the country's nuclear arsenal.

Yet, activists have taken a stance against nuclear



President Obama with Chinese President Hu Jintao at the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit.

weapons. An organization called Massachusetts Peace Action (MAPA) wants to see “an end to militarism and war.” They educate people on the dangers of nuclear weapons by holding rallies and conferences. MAPA also circulates petitions, in hopes of convincing the president, Congress and the other world leaders to get rid of nuclear weapons. “Our decision to speak or remain silent will determine what comes next,” writes Elaine Scarry for MAPA's newsletter. “Our own instruction to world leaders: ‘Disarm. Now.’”

Another organization called Youthpolicy.org is encouraging young people to get involved in **nuclear disarmament**, stating, “We decided that we could not let others make policies for us while we wait and see how it will affect us in the future.”

**Nuclear disarmament:** When a country gets rid of some or all of its nuclear weapons.

## The Power of Sugar

By JUSTIN LAMPART, age 11



Today, more young people than ever suffer from Type 2 juvenile diabetes. Americans consume at least 10 percent of their daily calorie intake from added sugar, which is the sugar added to processed foods and drinks during manufacturing or the sugar you add at home. According to the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, added sugar is in 74 percent of packaged foods. Added sugar can increase health risks like heart disease, diabetes and liver disease.

In 2007, a dentist named Cristin Kearns attended a conference on the links between diabetes and gum disease and was handed a pamphlet titled “How to Talk to Patients About Diabetes.” According to NPR, she was disturbed that it didn't recommend lowering Americans' sugar intake, making her wonder if the sugar industry “somehow impacted what the government can or cannot say about diet advice for diabetics.” Her investigation led to the discovery of documents detailing the close relationship between the sugar industry and the federal government in the 1960s and '70s.

Critics say the methods used by the sugar industry were similar to tobacco industry tactics. Gretchen Goldman, an analyst with the Union of Concerned Scientists, told *The Daily Beast*, “They're trying to



Americans consume at least 10 percent of their daily calorie intake from added sugar, which is the sugar added to processed foods and drinks during manufacturing or the sugar you add at home.

manufacture doubt in the science, they're trying to pay their own experts to carry their talking points, and they're doing these things with the intent to undermine public policy.”

According to Prof. Stanton Glantz of the University of California, San Francisco, though the government has long known the negative effects of sugar, it is only now considering policies to limit sugar consumption and marketing for children.

## newsbriefs



KATHRYN SCHLECHTER

### “Caravana 43” Demands Justice for Ayotzinapa Students



By SOLEDAD AGUILAR-COLON, age 13

Parents, friends and classmates of the 43 students who went missing in Iguala, Mexico, in September 2014 traveled around the United States in April to bring attention to the disappearances. The caravan demands that the United States pressure the Mexican Government to honestly investigate the case. They visited New York City during the week of April 20-26 to tell their stories and lead a march to the United Nations Headquarters.



WESLEY PINKHAM/FUCKR

### Fight for \$15 Goes Global



By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 11

On April 15, 2015, Fight For \$15, an organization working to raise the U.S. minimum wage, held their largest protest in the history of the movement. Rallies took place in 200 cities nationwide and 40 countries around the world. Protests for a higher minimum wage have started to pay off in many states. During the last two years, the minimum wages in Seattle, Oakland, CA, and Chicago have increased significantly.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### Uruguayan Author Eduardo Galeano Dies at 74



By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 12

Latin American author and activist Eduardo Galeano died of cancer on April 13, 2015 in Montevideo, Uruguay. Galeano's books, fiction and nonfiction, were important commentaries on wealth and power imbalances in society. His anti-capitalist writings were translated into more than 20 languages and read around the world. His celebrated works include: *Open Veins of Latin America*, *Children of the Days*, *A Calendar of Human History*, and *Mirrors: Stories of Almost Everyone*.



## Melting Arctic Ice Impacts Inuit in Alaska

**Inuit** people in Alaska and Canada are seeking government aid because they depend on ice to sustain their way of life, but they don't have the resources to solve the problem that has been going on for the last decade.

Ice used to protect Alaska from powerful waves. "As we grew up, we've never seen the water come over the village, but in the last 10 years, it came over the village at least three times," says Millie Howley, the president of the Native Village of Kivalina, an Alaskan island community.

Inuit rely on mammals that come up onto the ice for food, so less ice means shorter, less successful hunting trips. The Inuit are also accustomed to traveling on frozen rivers and there are no roads to travel on as an alternative.



## Drought Contributed to the Syrian War

A recent study conducted by Columbia University's Earth Institute indicates climate change may have contributed to the current civil war in Syria, which has killed 200,000 and displaced four million people.

In 2006, a buildup of greenhouse gasses triggered a three-year drought causing crop loss, water reduction and increased poverty. Rural residents facing increased diseases, high food prices, **barren** fields and lack of access to clean water moved toward cities seeking assistance from the Syrian government. Cities were unable to support so many new residents, and Syria's President Bashar al-Assad refused to help the displaced people. This contributed to already politically unstable conditions in Syria.

Richard Seager, a Columbia University climate scientist who co-authored the study, notes, "We're not saying the drought caused the war, we're saying that added to all the other stressors it helped kick things over the threshold into open conflict."

### Glossary of Terms

**Arable:** able to be used for growing crops

**Barren:** not healthy enough to produce vegetation

**Dengue fever:** a virus in the tropics transmitted by mosquitoes that causes a high fever and intense joint pain

**Inuit:** the native people of the arctic regions of Alaska, Canada and Greenland

**Marginalized:** when a person, group of people or community does not have their needs met or prioritized by the larger society around them

# CLIMATE CRISIS: The Now Factor

By NICHOLAS HOWARD-JENNINGS, age 10, ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 12, and MARIANNE NACANAYNAY, age 12 • Introduction by IndyKids Staff • Illustrations by Kit Mills



On April 22, 2015, President Obama gave his Earth Day address from the Florida Everglades, a national park that could be destroyed by global warming.

As the effects of climate change become more evident around the nation and the world, rising sea levels, drought and extreme weather will be most destructive for already **marginalized** communities. Towns, villages and entire countries are already experiencing the catastrophic effects of a warming planet. This devastation increases existing inequalities as resources decrease and become more expensive, and the cost of rebuilding is too high for poor families across the globe.

In his speech, Obama made it clear that real climate action cannot wait, saying, "This is not a problem for another generation. This is a problem now."



## Water Salinization Destroys Crops and Drinking Water in Bangladesh

Climate change's impact on Bangladesh, a small country bordered by India and the Bay of Bengal, is already devastating.

Rising sea levels due to melting snow caps in the Himalayan Mountains, dams, increased cyclones and changes in monsoon season duration have pushed salt into Bangladesh's rice fields and the fresh water that's under the earth through a process called salinization. Rainfall, evaporation and rivers that run into sea all impact how salty the ocean is. Rising air and water temperatures have thrown off that balance, making the ocean saltier than it used to be. Most crops find it difficult to get water from soil that's too salty. This process poses serious risks to the entire country's drinking water and **arable** land.

Once top producers of rice, Bangladeshi farmers are now losing crops. Former farmers are moving toward the country's capital where they are employed in sometimes unsafe factory jobs.



## Water Shortages Create Fear in Brazil

São Paulo, Brazil, South America's largest city, is predicted to run out of water by this summer.

The metropolis is facing its worst drought in years. Droughts are common in the area, but are becoming more extreme due to deforestation in the Amazon and climate change. The government has already rationed water and brought in emergency water trucks. However, trucks are not reaching everyone, especially those in poorer neighborhoods.

Some residents, like Elsa Barbosa, have resorted to collecting water from old, decaying wells. Barbosa spoke with WVXU radio about having to boil well water constantly and how that still didn't prevent people from getting sick. "There were stomach aches and vomiting," she said.

Others have started collecting rain water, but this can lead to major health problems like **dengue fever**, which is spread by mosquitoes that breed in standing water. The number of dengue fever cases has tripled in São Paulo in only one year.

## Rising Sea Levels Threaten Island Nation of Kiribati

Climate change has put a strain on food and water supplies in Kiribati, an island in the center of the Pacific Ocean. Crops are washed away with rain or die from severe drought. Climate change also affects its economy, which is based on agriculture and fishing.

Rising sea levels cover so much land that people in Kiribati are being forced to go inland.

"Who do we appeal and turn to for our people's right to survive?" Kiribati President Anote Tong asked the Human Rights Council. "If there is a major challenge on human rights that deserves global commitment, leadership and collaboration, this is the one: the moral responsibility to act now against climate change."

President Tong believes, and experts agree, that the island will become uninhabitable by 2030, and could be completely underwater by 2100.





WWF

## Irrawaddy Dolphin Population Declining

KID

By ALICE CHEKUNOVA, age 10

The population of the Irrawaddy dolphin in Laos is down to five. There are only about 85 left in the entire Mekong River, mostly in the section that runs through Cambodia. The dolphins are threatened by illegal fishing as well as plans to build a large dam in Laos. The World Wildlife Fund is calling for an end to illegal fishing and strict regulation of boat traffic in the area.



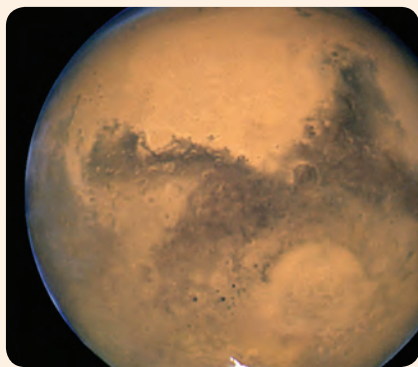
ROB BOUDON/FICKR

## Climate Change at the Polls

KID

By ANAND JAUREGUILORDA, age 10

The issue of climate change is changing the way Americans vote. According to the 2014 Yale Project on Climate Change Communication, voters in the United States are 2.5 times more likely to vote for presidential and congressional candidates who want to do something to reduce climate change. The study also showed that 26 percent of voters support campaigns that put pressure on politicians to address the issue of climate change.



NASA

## Curiosity Rover Finds Liquid Water on Mars

KID

By AMIA McDONALD, age 11

Recent discoveries by NASA's Curiosity rover have proven that Mars has liquid brine (salty water) slightly beneath its soil. Mars has extremely low surface temperatures, ranging between 27 and -133 degrees Celsius. These temperatures made it seem unlikely that liquid water could exist on the red planet, even though there have been traces of ice deposits on Mars' surface. However, the presence of calcium perchlorate, a type of salt, lowers the freezing temperature of water to around -70C, allowing the soil to be moist.

# culture&activism

## Radical Monarchs Take Flight in Oakland

By NYLU AVERY-BERNSHTAYN, age 10

KID

In 2014, Anayvette Martinez's fourth grade daughter wanted to join a girl's group similar to but separate from the Girl Scouts of the USA. According to Martinez, "I began to imagine... a group that centered and affirmed her experiences as a beautiful and brilliant brown girl against so many societal pressures to conform to mainstream ideals of girlhood." Martinez, a long time community activist, recruited her friend Marilyn Hollinquest to form a girl's political troop rooted in social justice. The Radical Monarchs were born.

The inaugural chapter was established in Oakland, CA, and the troop is open to eight to 12-year-old girls of color. There are currently 12 girls in the troop. They wear brown berets as a tribute to the Black Panther and Brown Beret movements that fought for justice and alternative ways to represent their Black and Latino communities. One of the girls said, "It's really good for me because it brings out who I am."

The Radical Monarchs' curriculum is unit-based.



RADICAL MONARCHS

The Radical Monarchs wear brown berets as a tribute to the Black Panther and Brown Beret movements that fought for justice and alternative ways to represent their communities.

Each unit consists of three to four sessions of activities. At the end of each unit, girls earn badges for Food Justice, Radical Self-Love and being LGBTQ Allies. The girls earned a Black Lives Matter badge by marching in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade in Oakland. The troop functions as a safe space where girls can engage in dialogue about Black history, learn about social justice and create a new model of girlhood.

## Women Taking Art to the Streets

By EVANGELINE COMEAU-KIRSCHNER, age 9

KID

In March 2015, women from all over the world gathered in London for Femme Fierce, a festival to highlight street art created by women.

Fiorela (Fio) Silva, a muralist and illustrator from Argentina who attended, told *IndyKids*, "It was a beautiful experience and I created wonderful memories there." Her artistic style includes drawing animals, leaves, trees and other natural things together to paint situations that she says "give a sensation of life, strength and movement."

The festival, which took place during International Women's Week, was an opportunity for the artists to meet each other and have their work appreciated at a global level. "It would be great to organize meetings like this all over the world in order to create spaces for cultural exchange," said Silva after attending Femme Fierce 2015.

Women are not new to the urban art scene. Danielle Link, who works with the street art-focused Jonathan LeVine Gallery in New York City, points out that there are female street artists like Faith47, Miss Van, Swoon,



ALEXANDRA HENRY

Fiorela Silva painting at the Femme Fierce women's street art festival in London in March 2015.

Maya Hayuk and Olek who "have been making works on the street for well over a decade and are finally getting the recognition they deserve." Silva also believes that there are more women street artists today than we have seen in the past. In fact, she says, "Nowadays, women have carved out a defined space for themselves."



# Meet IndyKids Reporter, Declan Peterson



DECLAN PETERSON

By AUDREN HEDGES DUROY, age 9



**D**eclan Peterson, age 12, has been writing for *IndyKids* since 2014.

**Audren Hedges Duroy: When did you first decide you liked to write?**

**Declan Peterson:** I never liked to write, which is the main reason I came to *IndyKids*. I wanted to improve my writing skills, which it did. It also made me respect journalists and their work more because I realized how hard it was.

**What is the hardest article you had to write? What made it hard?**

Probably my most recent article on Ebola because there was so, so much information that I had to condense down into 250 words.

**What was your favorite article that you have written and why?**

My NSA (National Security Administration) article was the one I really loved writing the most because I love to point out government wrongdoing.

**Where do you live and who do you live with? Does where you live affect the kind of writing you do, and why or why not? (For example, I live in a smaller town in Ohio, so the kinds of issues people worry about here are different than the issues people worry about in New York City.)**

I live on Earth (specifically in New York City) with my dad and mom, who don't really affect my writing. But New York City kind of gives my writing a more progressive focus because I see the struggles of the working class here.

## Someday, you could be a Civil Rights Attorney, like Zahyr K-R Lauren

By RIDA ALI, age 11



**C**ivil rights attorneys help people fight for their rights when they have experienced an injustice. Zahyr K-R Lauren is an attorney for the Sylvia Rivera Law Project in New York City.

**Rida Ali: What is the Sylvia Rivera Law Project? Can you explain a little bit about what you do?**

**Zahyr K-R Lauren:** The Sylvia Rivera Law Project seeks to increase the political voice and visibility of low-income people and people of color who are transgender, intersex or gender non-conforming. SRLP works to improve access to respectful and affirming social, health and legal services for our communities.

As the director of the Survival & Self Determination Project, I assist people in name change proceedings, government identification issues, health care challenges and immigration proceedings.

**What motivated you to work in this field?**

When I was 13, my brother was put face down on the ground while police pointed a weapon at his head. My brother was only 14 and was on his way to a leadership retreat. He was pulled over with his friends for no reason. He is Black and that's all that mattered to the police. After this terrible incident, I decided I would become a lawyer to fight the injustices that my family continues to face because we are Black.

**What do you hope to achieve through your work?**

I hope that as a lawyer, I am able to lift up the voices of people who are oppressed and targeted by the law. The law was designed to keep certain people in an inferior place. I want to be a part of making the law fair to everyone.

**What advice do you have for kids interested in fighting for social justice?**

Fighting for social justice can be hard on your heart. Fighting for social justice may mean you are fighting for your own right to live and be free. Take care of yourself while you are fighting. Be good to yourself. Be kind. Love hard.



THE SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT

## Art Against Police Brutality

By FEDALIS GRULLON, age 10



**H**ave you ever experienced injustice? Throughout my experience of being at DreamYard Art Center, I've learned a lot about being kind to others, having respect for my friends and, most importantly, standing up against injustice.

During our Empower Half Hour sessions once a week, the DreamYard Art Center staff has been teaching kindergarteners through fifth graders about the injustice that Michael Brown faced in Ferguson, MO. We've also talked about the protests against police violence that have been occurring around the nation.

We decided to join the movement by working together to make one big protest to show that even though we are kids, we are concerned with the killing of innocent people. My class of fourth and fifth graders are draw-

ing portraits of people of color who were killed by police officers. Our portraits were inspired by the artwork of artist Emory Douglas, who created illustrations for The Black Panther newspaper in the 1960s and '70s. I chose to draw a portrait of Jesse Hernandez, a Latina teenager who was killed by Denver, CO, police in January 2015.

It was exciting when my teachers Mr. Hector and Ms. Ava told us that we were going to help change things happening in our country with our own protest. I was really hoping to be a part of the demonstrations in Ferguson, but our protest is important because it's something that we chose to do, and it uses art to show that kids are paying attention to what's happening in the world.



Fedalis with her anti-police brutality protest art.

DREAMYARD PROJECT





WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Sun bears are omnivores and eat honey, fruits, insects, small mammals and vegetables.

## GETTING WILD WITH THE SUN BEAR

By PAULA PAULINO, age 9



The sun bear is the smallest of all the bear species. Sun bears are called “dog bears” because their ears and muzzles resemble a dog’s, and they are called “honey bears” because they love to eat honey, which they get by bravely raiding beehives. They live in several Southeast Asian countries, including Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Burma.

These bears have a bright orange horseshoe-shaped marking on their chest, and the rest of their fur is black. They are omnivores and in addition to honey they tend to eat fruits, insects, small mammals and vegetables.

Sun bears are under threat in many ways. Often, the cubs are wanted for pets. Also, their habitat is being destroyed for agriculture. Sun bears are hunted to be used in folk medicine and expensive soups in popular restaurants.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The sun bear’s tongue is 7.9 to 9.8 inches long. It helps them catch insects and scoop honey.

- The life span of a sun bear is about 25 years.
- In addition to humans, tigers and wildcats are predators of sun bears.
- Since their habitat is warm year-round, sun bears don’t need to hibernate and can mate at any time of the year.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/IndyKids](http://www.facebook.com/IndyKids)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:

[@IndyKidsNews](https://twitter.com/IndyKidsNews)



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## WHO AM I?



By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 12

1. I am a second generation Japanese-American who studied journalism in college.
2. After I graduated from college, I could not find a job in the United States because white Americans did not want to hire me in the late 1930s.
3. I travelled to Asia to find work and returned to the United States in 1941, just as WWII was starting.
4. I was sent to Heart Mountain Japanese Internment Camp in 1942 with my wife and son.
5. To draw attention to our lives and to keep people working together, I helped run the *Heart Mountain Sentinel* newspaper which covered events that occurred within the internment camps.
6. After I left the camp I worked as a reporter and editor for the *Denver Post* newspaper and wrote several books including *Nisei: The Quiet Americans* and *Out of the Frying Pan: Reflections of a Japanese American*.

(answer at bottom of page)

## ORIGINAL DRAWING BY ALIA KALUHIOKALANI

## WORD SEARCH

Find key words from the May/June 2015 *IndyKids* issue!

ARGENTINA  
DROUGHT  
HIROSHIMA  
MILLIONS MARCH  
NUCLEAR  
RADICAL MONARCHS  
SALINIZATION  
SUN BEAR  
SYLVIA RIVERA  
SYRIA  
TRANSGENDER



By ALIA KALUHIOKALANI, age 10